

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FORT LAUDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL
1600 NE 4TH AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
2ND FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2014- APRIL 2015	
		Present	Absent
Edna Elijah, Chair	P	7	1
Austin Scott, Vice, Chair	P	8	0
Gregory T. Boardman	P	7	1
Towana Bonaparte	A	3	2
Maureen S. Dinnen	A	4	4
W. Jason Dunne	P	1	0
Rochelle Horowitz	A	5	3
Deniece Jones	P	6	1
Jennifer L. Kimmey	P	7	1
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	1	7
Wayne Neunie	A	2	6
Dr. Maureen Persi	A	5	3
Catherine Pliess	A	4	3
Shelby Smith	P	8	0
S. Carey Villeneuve	P	4	0

Appointed Members to the Board: 15

Needed to constitute a quorum: 8

Staff

Junia Robinson, Neighbor Support and Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, BCPS Liaison

Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association

I. Opening – Chair, Edna Elijah

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Chair, Edna Elijah

Determination of quorum

As of this date, December 18th, 2014 there are 15 appointed members to the board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

III. Approve minutes (November 20th, 2014)

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Boardman, that the said minutes for November 20th, 2014 be approved. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Guest Introductions: Patrick J. Sipple, GISP
Director Demographics & Student Assignments
Broward County Public Schools, BCPS**

Chair Elijah introduces Mr. Patrick J. Sipple to the Board from Broward County School Board (BCPS) to discuss the boundary proposal. Mr. Sipple began by sharing that on December 11th, the schools boundary Advisor committee met to go over and make recommendations on the board boundary proposals to be brought forth at the January 13th workshop.

Mr. Sipple explained due to losing quorum throughout the meeting; the boundary advisory committee only had time to vote on 2 items which included the Virginia Shuman Young (VSY) boundary changes. He said the proposal is for VSY of establishing a boundary zone for them where currently there are reserved seats. Mr. Sipple said the committee unanimously voted (15-0) against it, meaning they would rather see something else take place rather than move forward with the proposal.

On January 13th, 2015, Staff will be presenting to School Board Members the proposal. Mr. Sipple said that School Board Members will be reviewing all emails and communication received on this proposal including the resolution from the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Victoria Park neighborhood association. All of these items will be presented at the meeting as community comments and concerns on January 13th. By January 23rd, Superintendent Runcie will give a final recommendation for which proposal he feels should move forward.

Mrs. Elijah opened the floor for questions from the Board to Mr. Sipple.

Mr. Villeneuve said "you mentioned the January 13th meeting, so Staff will present all 4 proposals then there will be discussion. Will the discussion be amongst the School board members?"

Mr. Sipple responded saying "yes, the format for school board workshop essentially is Staff will go ahead and present the proposals then the public will be allowed to speak however; there will not be "back and forth" dialogue between the School Board members and the public.

Mr. Villeneuve said "one of the reasons you are at this meeting is at our last meeting I made a motion that the City to endorse proposal C2, to redistrict VSY. My question is if no one from the committee is presenting and when Staff present C2 are they going to present the recommendation from the I-zone board?"

Mr. Sipple replied saying once a meeting does not have a quorum and still remains in Sunshine, the meeting does end but what members of the committee and the public can do is attend the January 13th School Board workshop and present what the discussed and heard at their committee meeting.

Mrs. Elijah asked Mr. Sipple “when is the final determination in reference to the boundaries?” Mr. Sipple replied “the final determination comes at the 2nd public School Board meeting which will be held on March 11th.

Mr. Austin Scott asked Mr. Sipple “how long have you been on the job’?

Mr. Sipple replied “I’ve been with the district will be 11 years on January 21st, I’ve actually started at the bottom of the department and worked my way up through demographer specialist and have been Director my current position for a year”.

Mr. Scott asked “how easy is it to get into a boundary school if it has empty seats”? Mr. Sipple replied by saying “our one choice process window happens December 01st of this year thru February 11th”; which includes the reassignment applications and the magnet and Nova applications.

Mr. Sipple also mentioned the lottery process is computer generated and Staff has no way of determining results.

Mrs. Elijah asked Mr. Sipple about schools that are being repurposed and “is the process and procedure for boundaries the same for repurposed students as they are for regular students”?

Mr. Sipple replied “No, what’s happening through the Student Success Opportunity Schools (SSOS) are scholarship programs, they are still in discussion with Walker elementary, other schools that could affect your area they are looking at putting a full magnet Montessori program at Martin Luther King elementary school. What they will also do with that is looking at that transportation zone being still north of 595 for the entire north. Essentially the same transportation zone as VSY and looking at the middle school level putting a Montessori school at Bair middle which will be west of 441 and north of 595.

Mrs. Elijah thanked Mr. Sipple for taking the time to present to the Board and he said he would remain for the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. Elijah recognized student member Catherine Green who attends Fort Lauderdale High School.

Mrs. Elijah also recognized both Ms. Betty Shelley and guest visitor Marilyn Mammano, President of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association.

V. Current business

A. BCPS updates – Charles Webster

Mr. Webster announced school grades came out and 75% of Broward high schools earned A’s or B’s, graduation rate was 88% and no high schools had F’s. He said in regards to Fort Lauderdale high schools, Stranahan high had a C, Dillard high had a B and Fort Lauderdale remained an A.

Mr. Webster asked if Mr. Sipple can update the Board on the SMART oversight committee. Mr. Sipple said that the oversight committee will have 17 members from organizations with an accounting background, fire safety, engineering as well as law enforcement. He said based on that recent workshop, the committee will be knocked down to 11 community members, including someone from the technology based community. A draft

resolution will be prepared on how the committee will be comprised with policy and guidelines for the January 21st meeting. Once approved by School board members, Staff will then begin to reach out to the organizations for selection for the committee; selections will not be made by Staff or School board members for this bond initiative.

Mrs. Elijah said “we were told that they were going to have community leaders on this committee.” She continued by saying “the sun-sentinel mentioned that as well. Are they still planning on having community leaders?”

Mr. Sipple replied saying the organizations they are looking at are from the member from the Bar association, finance association the parent teacher association, the association of building contractors, Broward county minority builders association and the NAACP. These particular organizations will then appointment someone who fits the criteria submitted by the School board.

Mrs. Mammano, with the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association said that the committee doesn’t sound like a group of concerned residents, it sounds impressive for a group of “CEO’s”. She suggested to Mr. Sipple that “you might want to look into that so the committee is less of an industry group and more of a community representative group”.

Mrs. Elijah asked Mr. Webster if the School Board discussion at their meeting on Tuesday regarding this committee is “set in stone?” She said she agrees with Mrs. Mammano on the “make-up” list and should probably have more discussion with the Board on this matter. Mr. Webster replied by saying “it’s not in stone until voted on the 21st”.

Mr. Shelby Smith said “what you’ve chosen is you’ve gone out in the business communities that is going to know best about construction, these are also the individuals that are going to profit from all of the \$800 million, so I truly believe you need to get to an organization such as the Council association or get into the community a little bit and at least a few people on that Board to be able to educate because as you just said you don’t have children and you don’t know and this may be what you end up with; attorneys who don’t have kids or who don’t understand the back part of it”.

Mr. Sipple said “for the Bond oversight committee, they are also looking at having quarterly public hearings to get community comment back on any of their concerns”.

MOTION by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Boardman to send the following communication to Commission:

The City of Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board strongly encourages the Broward School Board to include a greater representation of community leaders when appointing members to the Board Oversight Committee. We believe this would offer more diverse opinions, and inspire more confidence in residents.

In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Villeneuve asked the Board to revisit the Motion he made last meeting in regards to the bound proposal at VSY. He said that Mr. Sipple just explained the process to the Board and answered questions. Mr. Villeneuve asked if the Board was ready for him to present his MOTION for communication to Commission regarding this matter.

Mr. Boardman expressed that the City Manager sent a resolution to the School Board addressing this matter and he does not feel the Board should go against what the City Manager has already sent on behalf of the City.

Mr. Villeneuve replied to Mr. Boardman's concern by saying the resolution sent by the City Manager to the School Board did not include a portion of the Harbordale proposal that he would like included in the proposal. Mr. Villeneuve says these 2 things go hand in hand and Commissioner Dean Trantalis and Mayor Seiler were involved in the discussions regarding this matter.

Mr. Villeneuve's MOTION to send communication to City commission regarding VSY boundary proposal was not approved by the Board.

B. City Staff update - Junia Robinson

Ms. Robinson shared with the Board that she will prepare a list of highlights of speakers and accomplishments for 2014.

She also announced Neighbor Support Night scheduled for Thursday, February 12th, 2015 from 6-8:30PM.

VI. Communication to City Commission (Pending Approval)

VII. New Future Business

A. Possible visit from School Board Member Dr. Osgood

VIII. Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting January 15th, 2015

City Hall, 8th floor conference room